

about today in this appropriation bill giving them more money and yet India has increased their military budget this year by 28 percent. They are spending hundreds of millions of dollars on conventional and nuclear weapons, and we are subsidizing, indirectly, that proliferation of weaponry. This year, the President has requested \$46.6 million for developmental assistance to India through AID. That is an increase of almost \$18 million from last year's request. I cannot recall the President asking for this large of a request for India ever.

I understand that the Glenn amendment, which passed the U.S. Senate, is currently imposing sanctions on India for some of these violations. So why should we be increasing aid to a country that we are currently sanctioning for human rights abuses and other travesties? It makes absolutely no sense to me.

We are talking about 25 percent cut with this amendment. I think it is justifiable, it sends a strong message, one that will be heard around the world, but especially in India.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CALLAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Indiana for agreeing to withdraw his amendment, which I understand he is going to do momentarily.

The objective, or my objective in handling this bill is to wind up with a final document that does not have offensive language in there to my views or the views I think of the majority Members of Congress. The very fact that the gentleman has agreed to withdraw it gives me my victory, and I can see no sense in standing here all day long and delaying the possibility of whether or not Members are going to be able to get out of here in a timely fashion to catch their arranged flights to go home for the weekend. So I have accomplished my mission, and that is that the offensive language to me, with respect to India, is going to be withdrawn and the amendment is going to be withdrawn.

But out of deference to those who want to speak in response to the gentleman's remarks, I am going to yield 7 of my 10 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), with the forewarning, Mr. Chairman, that she is not going to come forward with a unanimous consent request to extend this debate and preclude the possibility of Members getting out of here in a timely fashion this afternoon.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 7 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), and I ask unanimous consent that she be permitted to control that time.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) controls 7 minutes which she may yield to others.

There was no objection.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the Burton amendment. I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ACKERMAN).

(Mr. ACKERMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana. I only regret that we do not have as much time to put the light of truth to so many of the things that he said, because we have not been given equal time in this debate.

That being said, the House has rejected the gentleman's amendment on repeated occasions, and I do hope and expect it will do so again today. I think it should be clear to all by now that punishing India by cutting our assistance is not a policy that this U.S. Congress will adopt.

The Burton amendment is the wrong amendment at the wrong time. In the wake of the President's successful visit to India, the U.S. and India have a new opportunity to build a broad-based relationship. Instead of applauding India for establishing a joint working group with the U.S. to fight against terrorism, the amendment would punish India by cutting crucial assistance.

The gentleman makes a great many allegations about human rights abuses in India, but conveniently ignores the fact that the people of India are the major victims of terrorism perpetrated by groups supported and trained in Pakistan and associated with Osama bin-Ladin. In fact, after the Kargil incursion and the hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane to Afghanistan, the Pakistani-backed terrorists have stepped up their attacks on innocent civilians and security forces in Kashmir.

To characterize India's struggle against terrorism as a violation of human rights is not only unjust, but also provides aid and comfort to the terrorists who have claimed thousands of innocent victims in India. That there are things that go wrong in any civilized society, including India, are true, and some of the things the gentleman points out are true, but these are not done by the government of India.

Mr. Chairman, churches are bombed and burned here. People are killed every day here. Women are raped every day of the year here. These things are terrible, but it does not mean that our government is responsible. The best way for us to help India continue to improve its human rights record is to engage in positive and constructive dialogue, one great democracy to another, not with punitive sanctions and cuts.

The momentum that we have gained in relations by the President's visit needs to be strengthened and sustained. For Congress to act now to stigmatize India for alleged human rights abuses would send the wrong signal to the 1 billion democratic people in India. I urge all of our colleagues to reject this amendment.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. LOWEY).

(Mrs. LOWEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON). This is the time that we should be working together on environmental, education, and health issues.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY).

(Mrs. MALONEY of New York asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Chairman, I rise, as I have many times, in opposition to the Burton amendment, and for our continued support for the world's largest democracy.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to express my strong opposition to this ill-conceived amendment.

This legislation has many problems, but one of the bright spots is a continued commitment to our Indian allies.

Unfortunately, this amendment will unfairly cut the critically-needed economic assistance funding for India included in this legislation.

As an important ally and a nation committed to strong democratic government, India has worked hard to ensure that the human rights of all its citizens are protected.

The Indian government has aggressively responded to assaults against religious minorities and has repeatedly expressed its commitment to ensuring tolerance. Recently, in response to attacks on Christians, Prime Minister Vajpayee reiterated his nation's desire to be inclusive of all faiths and to ensure equal justice under law for all Indians. We should support these efforts.

India is also one of our key trading partners and the Indian government has worked hard to create a friendly environment for U.S. firms.

As a result, U.S. investment in India has skyrocketed in the last ten years. Direct U.S. investment in India has increased from \$500 million in 1991 to more than \$15 billion today.

India has demonstrated a commitment to continue this growth and I strongly believe that we must support their efforts.

As a key ally and a fellow democracy, India deserves our support.

However, Congressman BURTON's amendment, rather than rewarding India, seeks to punish the people of India by withholding crucial humanitarian assistance.

India is a strong and vibrant democracy. It is the world's largest democracy. And, the U.S. is India's largest trading partner and largest investor.

The momentum gained in U.S.-India relations in recent years needs to be sustained and strengthened.

A vote for the Burton amendment would send the wrong signal to the people of India from the U.S. Congress at this very critical time.

I urge a "no" vote on the Burton amendment and yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).